

BACKGROUND

Saskatchewan offers income supports for housing through several programs, including the Social Assistance Program, the Transitional Employment Allowance, the Provincial Training Allowance, and the Saskatchewan Rental Housing Supplement.

- **The Social Assistance Program** provides last-resort financial protection for families and individuals who have no sources of income to meet their basic needs. The program is intended to cover basic living costs such as food and shelter. Shelter allowances are based on a four-tier schedule. Communities with similar average market rents are assigned to a specific tier, ranging from A to D. Tier A communities are those with the highest average market rents like Regina and Saskatoon, while Tier D includes small rural communities where rents are lowest. Within each tier, maximum allowable shelter allowances are based on bedroom space requirements for the family type.
- **The Transitional Employment Allowance** is an income support program designed to assist lower-income people who are participating in pre-employment programs and services or who are “job ready” and seeking employment. The allowance provides shelter support through a monthly general living allowance intended to cover food, clothing, shelter, personal and household needs.
- **The Provincial Training Allowance**, administered by Saskatchewan Advanced Education and Employment, provides flat-rate income support to participants in adult basic education and quick skills programs. The allowance was implemented in 1997 as a part of Building Independence.
- **The Saskatchewan Rental Housing Supplement**, the newest Building Independence program, was introduced in 2005. It helps low-income families and people with disabilities access quality, affordable housing. The supplement has two components: a family rental housing benefit and a disability rental housing benefit for individuals or couples with disabilities. To promote quality housing choices, housing must meet minimum health and safety standards in order to qualify for the supplement. The housing supplement is available to households receiving Social Assistance, the Transitional Employment Allowance, or the Provincial Training Allowance, as well as lower-income working households. The supplement was designed to cover up to 20 per cent of average rental costs for families and 30 per cent for people with disabilities. The supplement amount is based on income, the number of people in the family, and the cost of rent in the community.